GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:791
ANSWERED ON:01.03.2016
Acid Attacks
Chudasama Shri Rajeshbhai Naranbhai;Pathak Smt. Riti;Ram Mohan Naidu Shri Kinjarapu;Solanki Dr. Kirit Premjibhai

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether acid attacks on women and girl children are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the total number of such cases reported and women/girl children died/injured, accused arrested and the action taken against the guilty separately during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise;

(c) the details of steps taken for the rehabilitation of such victims and employment benefits given along with the financial assistance provided for medical treatment to the victims during the said period, State-wise;

(d) whether the Government has issued any directive to hospitals to treat acid attack victims free of cost;

(e) if so, whether the Government has received any complaints against the hospitals who have not treated the acid victims and if so, the details thereof and the action taken against such hospitals, State-wise;

(f) whether the Government is contemplating awarding of life imprisonment or capital punishment in such cases by making amendment in the Criminal Procedure Code and if so, the details thereof; and

(g) the manner in which the Government is ensuring the compliance of guidelines issued on the sale of acid and the details of advisories issued by the Union Government to the State Governments and police departments to curb the cases of acid attacks and to set up Special Courts to ensure speedy trial of such victims?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS
(SHRI HARIBHAI PARATHIBHAI CHAUDHARY)
(a) & (b): As per information provided by the National Crime Records
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Bureau (NCRB), a total of 85, 128 and 137 cases were reported under acid attacks on women (including girl children) during 2012, 2013 and 2014 respectively showing a rising trend. State/UT wise cases registered, cases charge-sheeted, cases convicted, persons arrested, persons charge-sheeted and persons convicted under acid attacks on women and children (including girls) during 2012-2014 is enclosed at Annexure-I. The latest data pertains to the year 2014. NCRB does not maintain information on women/girls children died/injured under acid attacks separately.

(c): In order to augment the implementation of State Victim Compensation Scheme, a decision has been taken to set up a Central Victim Compensation Fund (CVCF) with an initial corpus of Rs. 200 crores which is meant for tackling crime/violence against women. A provision is stipulated to provide special financial assistance upto Rs 5.00 lakhs to the victims of acid attack to meet treatment expenses over and above the compensation paid by the respective States/UT Administrations.

The detailed guidelines are available at

http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/CVCFFuideliness_141015.pdf
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(d) & (e): Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued Advisory dated 2.5.2013 regarding providing free medical treatment to acid attack victims and also a letter dated 20th May, 2015 wherein States/UTs have been advised to take a serious note of the directions of the Hon'ble Supreme Court with regard to treatment and payment of compensation to acid attack victims and to implement these directions through the issue of requisite orders/notifications. The private hospitals are also to be brought on board for compliance, no hospital/clinic should refuse treatment citing lack of specialized facilities, first-aid must be administered to the victim and after stabilization, the victim/patient could be shifted to a specialized facility for further treatment wherever required, action may be taken against hospital/clinic for refusal to treat victims of acid attacks and other crimes in contravention of the provisions of Section

357C of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973.

(f): The Criminal Law (Amendment) Act, 2013 provides for punishment which may extend to life imprisonment under Section 326A of the Indian Penal Code for voluntarily causing grievous hurt by use of acid, etc.
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(g): Ministry of Home Affairs has issued advisories dated 30th August, 2013 on Measures to be taken to prevent acid attacks on people and for treatment and rehabilitation of survivors and another advisory dated 20th April, 2015 on expediting cases of Acid Attack on women which are available at

http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/AdvisoryAfterSupremeCourtOrderInLaxmCase_Short.pdf
http://mha.nic.in/sites/upload_files/mha/files/AdvisoryAcidAttackWomen_220415.pdf
As per the seventh schedule to the Constitution of India `Police` and `Public Order` are State subjects and, as such, the primary responsibility of prevention, detection, registration, investigation and prosecution of crime, lies with the State Governments/ Union Territory Administrations.
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